

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tomohiro OKUMURA et al.

: Docket No.00177/530809 2000_0191A

Serial No. 09/511,398

: Group Art Unit 1762

Filed February 23, 2000

: Examiner M. Padjett

PLASMA PROCESSING
METHOD AND APPARATUS

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RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

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Sir:

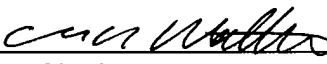
Responsive to the species election requirement contained in item 1 on page 2 of the August 1, 2001 Office Action, Applicants hereby elect Species (II), directed to a plasma processing apparatus and method using an antenna. Claims 2, 10-12, 15, 18, 24-26 and 35-54 are readable on the elected Species. *dep on first only*

Responsive to the invention election requirement contained in item 2 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, Applicants hereby elect Group I, drawn to plasma processes and apparatus controlling plasma distribution with an annular plasma trap. The Examiner indicated that this Group I includes claims 1-27. However, it is noted that claim 55 contained in the Preliminary Amendment filed February 23, 2000 should also be included in this Group due to its dependency from claim 15.

In view of the above elections, a full examination on the merits of this application is now respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomohiro OKUMURA et al.

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September 4, 2001

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